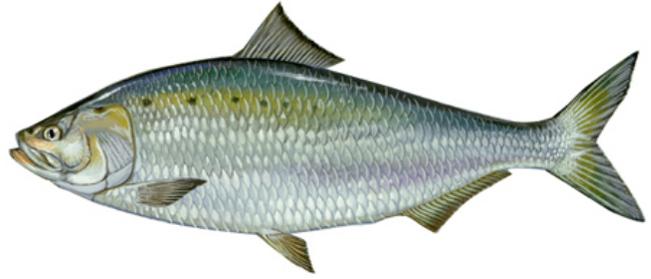


FISHING REPORT NUMBER 7

6/2/2011



INLAND REPORT

Come take a tour of the Rainbow Fishway-

See migrating fish in the underground viewing window.

This week –DEP’s annual OPEN HOUSE AT THE RAINBOW FISHWAY (Windsor) is Saturday, June 4, from 10:00 am until 3:00 pm. The public is invited to visit the fishway and learn about both it and the fish it passes. During this day, the public can tour the facility and are encouraged to go downstairs and check out the underground viewing window. Shad and lamprey may be seen passing upstream, and Atlantic salmon are sometimes captured for breeding. Staff will be on hand to answer questions. This is a **GREAT ACTIVITY FOR FAMILIES**, and there is no fee. *Directions can be found at the end of the Notes section (page 2).*

LARGEMOUTH BASS fishing continues to be fair to good. Best reports are from Candlewood Lake, Bantam Lake, Quaddick Reservoir (catches include a 6.6 lb beauty), Mashapaug Lake (lots of smaller fish) and fair reports from Amos Lake, Bashan Lake, Pachaug Pond, Highland Lake (catches include a 5.5 lb largemouth), Lake Lillinonah, Coventry Lake, Lake Saltonstall and Winchester Lake. Other locations reporting some action include Pickerel Lake, Mansfield Hollow Reservoir, Eagleville Lake, Billings Lake and Lake McDonough.

SMALLMOUTH BASS fishing remains variable, with reports from Highland Lake (fair), Candlewood Lake (good to very good, some 4-5 lb smallies are still being caught), Coventry Lake (tough), Lake McDonough (good), Gardner Lake (slow), Squantz Pond (fair-good), Lake Lillinonah (fair) and Bashan Lake (very tough).

NORTHERN PIKE fishing is reported to be good in Bantam Lake and Winchester Lake.

KOKANEE are being caught at West Hill Pond. Try fishing at 3 colors of lead line for these great fighters. These fish are famous for their exciting aerial displays.

WALLEYE – Fair to good action for walleye reported from Squantz Pond, a very nice walleye was recently caught in Candlewood Lake and some action is also reported from Coventry Lake.

TROUT

Rivers & streams - Anglers can expect good trout fishing. Although DEP’s spring stocking program was completed last week there’s still plenty of trout waiting to be caught, the weather forecast is good and flows are moderate and comfortable for fishing. Some success is being found using worms & corn/mealworm combinations. A number of major insect hatches are underway (hatch times will vary with water temperatures). Good reports last week from the West Branch Farmington River, Farmington River, Housatonic River, Mount Hope River, Fenton River, Hammonasset River, Quinebaug River, Salmon River, Willimantic River, Saugatuck River TMA, Natchaug River, Quinnipiac River, Naugatuck River, Blackledge River and Norwalk River.

IMPORTANT REMINDER TO ANGLERS AND BOATERS-

Zebra mussels were recently (October, 2010) found in Lake Zoar and Lake Lillinonah.

Prior to this discovery, zebra mussels had been found (1998) in CT only in East Twin Lake and West Twin Lake (Salisbury). Anglers fishing in any of these waters and western Connecticut in general **should use extra care to avoid transporting water, aquatic vegetation, and possibly zebra mussels to new locations.**

This highly invasive mussel can disrupt aquatic ecosystems and is notorious for clogging water intakes and fouling boat hulls and engine cooling water systems.

For more information on zebra mussels and other invasive species, visit www.ct.gov/dep/invasivespecies.



Farmington River – Fishing continues to be good and conditions should be great for the weekend, with great weather and clear, moderate flows (currently 297 cfs at Riverton plus an additional 140 cfs from the Still River).

Hatches/patterns include *Vitreus* [a.k.a. pale evening dun] #14, Tan Caddis (#16-18), Emerald Caddis (#14), Blue Wing Olive [a.k.a. baetis or vegans] #16-24, Blue Quill [a.k.a. paralep] #18 and the Quill Gordon (#14), March Brown nymphs (#12-14), Gray Fox (#14, afternoon), Blue Wing Olives (#16-18, mid-late afternoon), Caddis (tan #14-18, all day; green #16-20, evening), Midges (#22-32) and Pale Evening Duns (*Epeorus vitreus* #14-16, afternoon & early evenings).

Housatonic River – Trout fishing is very good and conditions should be great for fishing. Flows are moderate (finally) and very fishable, 800 cfs at Falls Village and 1,400 cfs at Gaylordsville. Water temperatures are in the mid-upper 60's °F.

Major insect hatches are here and will begin to provide excellent fly fishing especially when the spinners start up. Current patterns include Sulphurs (#14-16), *Isonychia* (#10-12), Blue Wing Olive (#18-24, early morning; spinner fall in evening), Cahill (#12-14), Adams (#12-20, evening), March Brown (#10-12) & Gray Foxes (#10-12) are producing. Green Caddis (#14-20, early morning & evening) are on the water. Midges and early stoneflies (#6) are also being seen at tributary mouths.

Lakes & Ponds – Trout fishing has been fair to good with reports from West Hill Pond (20 trout for one angler, 20-30 feet down), Highland Lake (15 trout for one angler, at 20 feet), Beach Pond (good action on 9-10 inch stockies), Candlewood Lake (fair action, no big fish), Crystal Lake, Coventry Lake, Mashapaug Lake, Pataconk Lake, Black Pond (Meriden) and Bashan Lake (some 13-14 inch rainbows). We should be moving into big fish time, lots of big trout tend to be caught from late May into mid June.

NOTES & NOTICES:

- The “seawall” area extending from the handicap-accessible fishing pier to the permitted swim area at **SQUANTZ POND is closed to fishing during the day**. During the summer season (From Memorial Day weekend through Labor Day weekend inclusive), the area can be **accessed by anglers only at night**. Anyone with a fishing pole can access the fence through the several gates (please reclose gate after you enter or exit)
- **BOAT LAUNCHES - Moodus Reservoir** (Lower & Upper) is currently drawn down 30 inches, making the launching of trailer boats very difficult (especially for larger boats). It is now anticipated that this **drawdown will continue through the end of July**. The boat launch at **Colebrook River Lake** is closed until further notice. Access by foot or vehicle remains open and shore fishing is allowed. Boaters should call the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) at 860-379-8234 for updated information.
- **LAKE HOUSATONIC** will be drawn down three feet this weekend (6/3-6/5) for maintenance. Launching trailered boats from the state boat launch will be very difficult to impossible.

Directions to Rainbow Reservoir Fishway:

From Rt. I-91, take exit 40 to Rt.20 (Bradley Airport Exit). Travel west to the Hamilton South exit. At the end of the exit ramp turn left. Turn right at the first intersection on to Rainbow Road. The fishway is on the left about a quarter of a mile down the road. Look for a cyclone fence and a brown sign with yellow lettering.

From Rt.20 East (traveling toward I-91), go past the exit for Bradley Airport and take the Hamilton exit. At the end of the exit ramp turn right. Turn right at the first intersection on to Rainbow Road. The fishway is on the left about a quarter of a mile down the road. Look for a cyclone fence and a brown sign with yellow lettering.

DIDYMO ALERT

The highly invasive freshwater alga, *Didymosphenia geminata*, known as “didymo” or “rock snot”, was recently discovered in Connecticut in the West Branch Farmington River. This is the first report of didymo in Connecticut.

Under ideal conditions, blooms of didymo can form thick mats of material on the bottoms of rivers and streams. These mats feel like wet wool and are typically gray, white and/or brown, but never green in color, and if dense may have negative impacts on the ecological, recreational and aesthetic values of rivers with suitable habitat (cold, rocky, well-lit areas).

Anglers, kayakers and canoeists, boaters and jet skiers can all unknowingly spread didymo. The microscopic cells can cling to fishing gear, waders (felt soles can be especially problematic), boots and boats, and remain viable for months under even slightly moist conditions.

For more information including precautions that should be taken to prevent the spread of didymo to additional waters, visit www.ct.gov/dep/invasivespecies.

CONNECTICUT RIVER – The river is somewhat high (but dropping) and cool, and is reportedly very turbid. **CATFISH** action is very good in the lower river, fish are being taken on chunk bait. Coves are good places to try. **STRIPED BASS** are throughout the river, but the high flows and coffee stained water made striper fishing difficult over the holiday weekend. Trolling tube & worm and casting soft plastics work best in stained water. Last week’s action included a number of catches in the lower Farmington River. **SHAD** can still be found, but action is slowing. **NORTHERN PIKE** are reported in the coves and from Hartford downstream to Haddam.

More options for obtaining

CT RIVER BONUS STRIPED BASS vouchers

The following tackle retailers are now distributing bonus vouchers. **Anglers are advised to call the vendor in advance to determine availability of the vouchers:**

Canton- Dicks’s Sporting Goods (860-693-1619)
(Canton store only)

East Hartford - Cabela’s (860-290-6201)

Enfield -Yankee Bait & Tackle (860-741-5994)

Madison- Captain Morgan’s Bait & Tackle
(203-245-8665)

New London -AW Marina Bait & Tackle
(860-443-6076)

Wethersfield- CT Outfitters (860-571-8986)

**CONNECTICUT RIVER
BONUS STRIPED BASS PROGRAM**

- DEP is issuing free vouchers to anglers fishing the Connecticut River to take 4,025 striped bass in a size range (at least 22 inches in length but shorter than 28 inches) below the current recreational minimum length for stripers in CT.
- Each voucher allows the angler to keep one “bonus” striper and can be used only on the Connecticut River from just above the I-95 bridge to the Massachusetts border. The vouchers are valid through June 30.
- Vouchers can be obtained at the same DEP Offices where licenses are sold, while fishing along the Connecticut River from DEP Environmental Conservation (EnCon) Police Officers and Riverfront Recapture Rangers and now will also be available from tackle retailers who have offered to distribute vouchers.
- Anglers can obtain two vouchers per day and use a maximum of two vouchers per day to keep “bonus” fish.
- Use of these vouchers does not affect an angler’s ability to keep their regular daily limit of striped bass. Each angler participating in the program can also keep up to two striped bass a day, 28 inches or larger in total length.

For more information, visit:

www.ct.gov/dep/fishing or call 860-424-3474.

SPECIAL NOTE TO ANGLERS FISHING THE HARTFORD AREA-

This spring, DEP has received several reports of “unusual” fish being caught in the CT River (Hartford area) and in the lower Hockanum River system. The catches reported were all bowfin (*Amia calva*). Bowfin are native to portions of the Midwest and Northeast. In CT there are populations in Scoville Reservoir (Wolcott) and in the upper CT River. Once relatively limited in size and distribution, since 2003 the CT River population has been increasing in size and expanding its distribution.

In several cases, anglers were concerned that they had caught a snakehead (a large invasive predatory fish from Asia, originally brought to this country for the live food and aquarium trades, made notorious by several high profile introductions and a really bad movie). Bowfin and snakeheads are similar in appearance. The easiest method to distinguish between the two fishes is to look at the length of the anal fin (*see below*). On a bowfin, the anal fin is short, well less than half the body length of the fish. On a snakehead, the anal fin is generally long, half the body length or longer. If you think that you have captured a snakehead, please report your catch by calling Inland Fisheries (860-424-3474).



BOWFIN

short anal fin



NORTHERN SNAKEHEAD

long anal fin

MARINE FISHING REPORT



Surface water temperatures in Long Island Sound (LIS) are in the mid to upper 50's °F. Check out the following web sites for more detailed water temperatures and marine boating conditions:

<http://www.mysound.uconn.edu/stationstat.html>
http://marine.rutgers.edu/mrs/sat_data/?nothumbs=1
<http://www.ndbc.noaa.gov/>
<http://www.wunderground.com/MAR/AN/330.html>

STRIPED BASS fishing is fair to good at the reefs off Watch Hill and the eastern tip of Fishers Island, lower Pawcatuck River, the Race, Plum Gut, Millstone outflow, Bartlett Reef, Black Point, lower Connecticut River (DEP fishing pier), Long Sand Shoal, Southwest Reef, Falkner Island area, Thimble Islands to the Branford Reefs, New Haven Harbor, Charles Island area, Housatonic River (up to the Derby Dam), Penfield Reef, and around the Norwalk Islands. The following baits and gear that have been working well include live eels or bunker (Atlantic menhaden), fresh cut bunker or mackerel, and whole sand or blood worms on three way bottom rigs or fish finder rigs.

BLUEFISH fishing is overall on the slow side. Choppers are mostly small 2 to 4 lbs, but some larger fish weighing in the low teens have been caught. Fishing spots include the Race, Sandy Point area (Stonington), Millstone outflow, Plum Gut, New Haven Harbor (Sandy Point), Bridgeport Harbor, and the Norwalk Islands.

SUMMER FLOUNDER (fluke) is a very slow pick. Fluke spots include Gardiners Bay, the Peconic Bays, and the north shore of Long Island including Horton's Pt., Mattituck Inlet, Roanoke Pt. Shoal, Herod Pt. Shoal and off Port Jefferson (NY). Fluke spots on the CT side include Niantic Bay, Black Point, Westbrook-Clinton area and off the New Haven breakwaters.

SCUP (porgy) fishing is also very slow on the local reefs.

For regulation updates and fishing/crabbing information, please check out our web site at: www.ct.gov/dep/fishing or pick up the new 2011 Angler's Guide. The guide contains all current marine fishing regulations and more.

INFORMATION FOR CT ANGLERS FISHING IN NEW YORK WATERS:

New York DEC now has their online marine angler registry up and running. While your Connecticut Marine Waters Fishing License is valid in the New York waters of Long Island Sound, to fish in other New York marine waters you must be registered in the New York Marine Fishing Registry. Please see link to register:

<http://www.dec.ny.gov/permits/54950.html#How>

The registration is free.

The Department of Environmental Protection is an affirmative action/equal opportunity employer and service provider. In conformance with the Americans with Disabilities Act, DEP makes every effort to provide equally effective services for persons with disabilities. Individuals with disabilities who need this information in an alternative format, to allow them to benefit and/or participate in the agency's programs and services, should call should call 860-418-5937 or e-mail Barbara.Viadella@ct.gov. Persons who are hearing impaired should call the State of Connecticut relay number 711.



DEP WEEKLY FISHING REPORT
CONNECTICUT DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION
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